

Proclamation 4501

April 14, 1977

Small Business Week, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our nation's small businesses employ 100 million Americans and produce nearly half of our gross business product. Small businesses remain healthy in an economic environment that equates size with success because they take an active interest in the customers and communities they serve.

A successful small business is evidence of the independence, initiative and hard work of the man or woman who owns and operates it. Their spirit has been, and will continue to be, a major factor in our nation's growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning Sunday, May 22, 1977, as Small Business Week, and I ask all Americans to join me in expressing the pride we take in our nation's small business sector.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4502

April 15, 1977

National Maritime Day, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than two centuries, the United States has relied on the Merchant Marine for trade and defense. The Merchant Marine has contributed to our economic growth and military strength.

The men and women of our Merchant Marine have worked hard to export our products to foreign markets, and import foreign goods for our use and pleasure.

Those who serve in the Merchant Marine have the spirit, the character, and devotion to duty that have made our nation strong, free, and prosperous.

In recognition of the importance of the American Merchant Marine, the Congress, by joint resolution of May 20, 1933 (48 Stat. 73, 36 U.S.C. 145) designated May 22 of each year as National Maritime Day in commemoration of the departure

from Savannah, Georgia, on that date in 1819 of the SS SAVANNAH on the first transatlantic voyage by any steamship, and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

Because May 22 falls on Sunday this year, and in keeping with custom, it is appropriate to observe National Maritime Day on the following Monday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the people of the United States to honor our American Merchant Marine on May 23, 1977, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4503

April 21, 1977

Mother's Day, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Recent shifts in our culture and society have created new patterns of life for many American mothers and families.

Some of these changes have been desirable, and some not so desirable. But all have put new burdens on the women who must adapt to the shifts—the mothers of America.

By and large they have met the challenge of change with grace, intelligence, and dignity.

Mother's Day should no longer be merely a day on which we reaffirm our love for our mothers. It should also be an occasion for admiration of the way American mothers have maintained those family bonds that protect us from the uncertainties of a changing society and give meaning and direction to our lives.

And it should be an occasion for those of us in public life to reflect on what government can do to help the mothers of America keep our families strong.

36 USC 142.

In recognition of the contributions of all mothers to their families and to the Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), designated the second Sunday in May each year as Mother's Day and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby request that Sunday, May 8, 1977, be observed as Mother's Day.